Sport Hunting Zones and Seasons

Black Bear

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	15 Aug/30 June	C/1, D/1, D/3, E, F, G/1, G/3, H
Non-resident	15 Aug/31 Oct	E/1
Non-resident Alien	15 Aug/31 Oct	E/1

Grizzly Bear

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	15 Aug/31 Oct	D/1, D/3, E, G

Polar Bear

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
All Hunters	1 Dec/31 May	All N.W.T. except *A/1-1, B/5-1, B/5-2, I/1-1, I/1-2, I/1-3, J/1, J/2
	1 Oct/31 May	A/1-1, B/5-1, B/5-2, I/1-1, J/1, J/2
	1 Jan/31 May	I/1-2
	15 Nov/31 May	I/1-3

* A/1-1 indicates an area within A/1, and so on. For precise locations, contact your Outfitter or the Wildlife Service.

Barren-ground Caribou

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	15 Aug/30 April	A/1, B, C/1, D/1, (except D/1-A), F, H/1, H/3, I, J/1
Non-resident	15 Aug/31 Oct	F, I
Non-resident Alien	15 Aug/31 Oct	F, I

Woodland Caribou

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	15 July/31 Jan	C/1, D/3, E, G/1
Non-resident	25 July/31 Oct	E/1
Non-resident Alien	25 July/31 Oct	E/1

Mountain Goat

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	15 July/31 Oct	E/1
Non-resident	15 July/31 Oct	E/1
Non-resident Alien	15 July/31 Oct	E/1

Moose

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	1 Sept/31 Jan	*C/1, D/3, E, F, G, H/3
Non-resident	1 Sept/31 Oct	E/1
Non-resident Alien	1 Sept/31 Oct	E/1

*excluding all islands in the Mackenzie River from 1 Dec to 31 Jan

Muskox

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
All Hunters	1 Oct/31 March	*A/1-1, A/1-2, A/1-3, A/1-4, B/2-1, B/2-2, B/2-3, B/2-4, B/2-5, B/3-1, C/1-1, C/1-2, F/1-1, F/1-2, H/1-1, H/1-2, H/1-3, H/1-4, J/1-1
	1 Oct/30 May	A/1-5
	1 Oct/30 April	B/1-1

* A/1-1 indicates an area within A/1, and so on. For precise locations, contact your Outfitter or the Wildlife Service.

Dall's Sheep

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	15 July/31 Oct	E
Non-resident	15 July/31 Oct	E/1
Non-resident Alien	15 July/31 Oct	E/1

Wolf

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	25 July/30 April	C, D, E, G, I, J/2, J/3, J/4
	1 Oct/31 May 1 July/30 June	A, B F, H, J/1
Non-resident	25 July/30 Oct	E/1
Non-resident Alien	25 July/30 Oct	E/1

Wolverine

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
Resident	25 July/30 April	All N.W.T.
Non-resident	25 July/31 Oct	E/1
Non-resident Alien	25 July/31 Oct	E/1

Hare (all species)

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
All Hunters	1 July/30 June	All N.W.T.

Ptarmigan/Grouse

	Season	Unit/Zone/Area
All Hunters	1 Sept/30 April	All N.W.T.

Do You Need An Outfitter?

If you are not a resident you will require an Outfitter to hunt big game (but not small game). All sport hunters, including residents, must go through an Outfitter to hunt polar bear and muskox. Outfitters provide licenced Guides for all hunters they serve.

Class A Outfitters

Required for non-residents and non-resident aliens to hunt big game in E/1

E/1-1
Ray Woodward
Arctic Red River Outfitters Ltd.
Box 1457
Lloydminster, Alberta
S9V 1K4
403-825-7847 or 403-875-8926
or Summer —
c/o Perry Linton
Norman Wells, N.W.T.

E/1-2
Gary Koopman
Gana River Outfitters Ltd.
1330 Richmond St.
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 3S8
604-763-0685
or Summer —
c/o Perry Linton
Norman Wells, N.W.T.

E/1-3
Stan Stevens
Mackenzie Mountain Outfitters Ltd.
Box 124
Norman Wells, N.W.T.
X0E 0V0
403-587-2255

E/1-4
Stan Simpson
Ram Head Outfitters Ltd.
Box 1517
Claresholm, Alberta T0L 0T0
403-625-2931 or 403-625-2207
or Summer —
c/o Perry Linton
Norman Wells, N.W.T.

E/1-5
Duane Nelson
N.W.T. Outfitters Ltd.
Box 1144
Glenwood, Alberta T0K 2R0
403-626-3279
or Summer —
c/o Watson Lake Flying Service
Watson Lake, Yukon
Y0A 1C0

E/1-6
Tim & Hugh MacAulay
Redstone Mountain Trophy Hunts
Box 608
Banff, Alberta T0L 0C0
403-762-3124 or 403-388-2117
or Summer —
c/o Watson Lake Flying Service
Watson Lake, Yukon
Y0A 1C0

E/1-7
Bob Woodward
South Nahanni Outfitters Ltd.
Box 586
Cardston, Alberta T0K 0K0
403-653-2562

E/1-8
Greg Williams
Nahanni Butte Outfitters Ltd.
Box 491
Nanton, Alberta T0L 1R0
403-646-5768

Class B Outfitters

Required for non-residents and non-resident aliens to hunt barren-ground caribou. This is an experimental program subject to a total harvest quota. For further details, and a list of Outfitters, contact:

Chief, Field Services
Dept. of Renewable Resources
Government of the N.W.T.
Box 2668
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9
403-920-8043

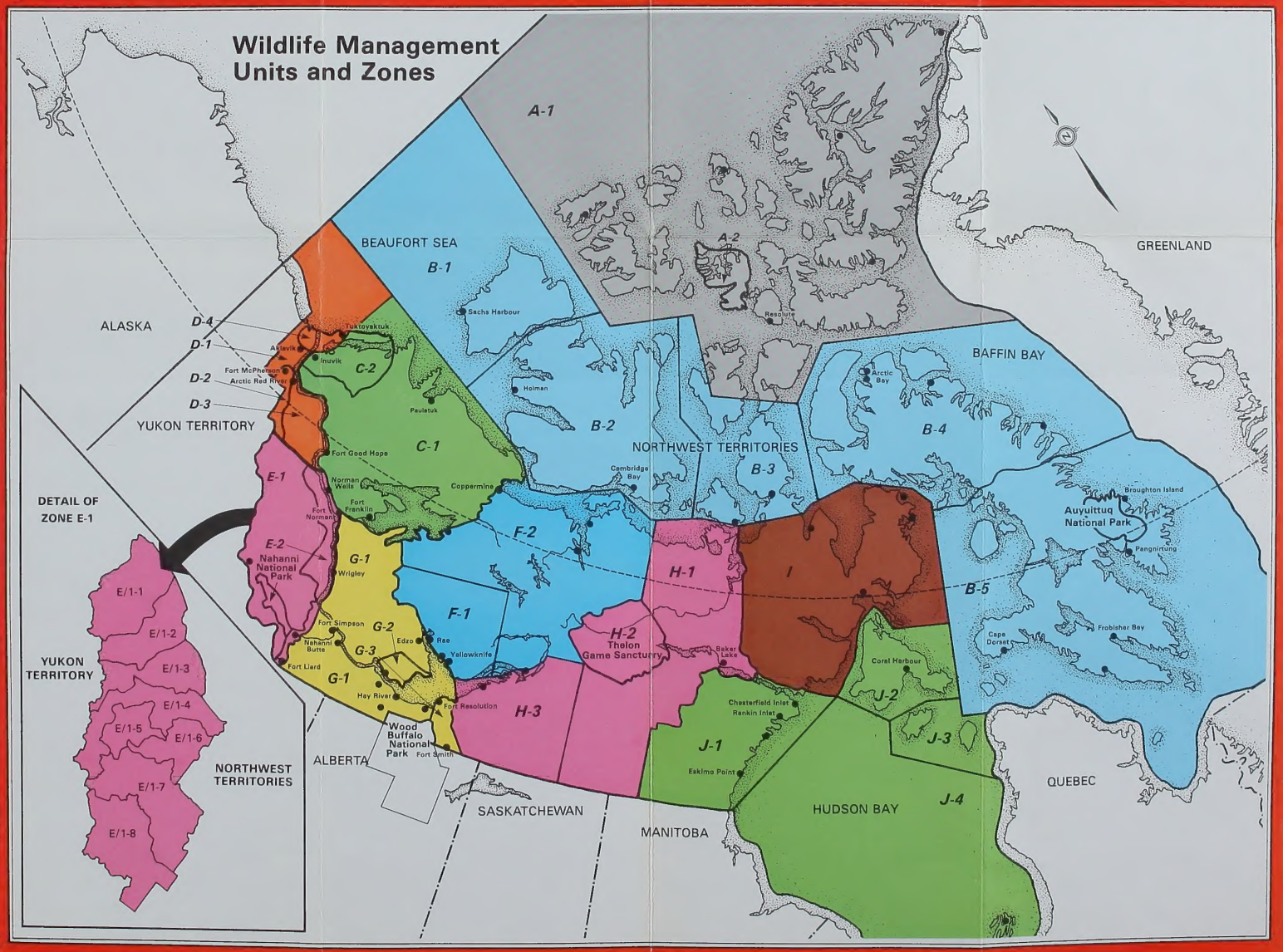
Class C Outfitters

Required by all sport hunters for muskox and polar bear. Total harvest for both species is limited by quotas allocated to local Hunters & Trappers Associations (HTA's). Only HTA's may act as Outfitters for polar bear and muskox sport hunts. Bookings may be made through:

Qaivvik Ltd.
Box 1538
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P5
403-873-2074

Guided Arctic Expeditions
c/o Inuvialuit Development Corp.
Box 2000, Inuvik, N.W.T.
X0E 0T0, 403-979-3510
Attention: Jessie Amos, Hunt Coordinator

Note: The holder of a sport hunting licence may hunt polar bear only by dog team, and may not approach on a vehicle (including a snowmobile or three-wheeled motorcycle) any closer than 3.25 km to muskox when hunting muskox.



HUNTER ETHICS

Hunting, like other sports, involves its enthusiasts to different degrees for varying reasons. It is called recreation yet little of its true meaning is revealed by words like diversion, relaxation or entertainment. The job of good hunting is a demanding one. A hunter's actions are governed by a rigorous code of ethics and he who embraces it keeps his vows in solitude with no witness but the land itself. Your assistance in helping the Wildlife Service preserve these ethics will be appreciated and it was in this spirit that these regulations were passed.

FEES

Species	Resident	Non-Resident		Non-Resident Alien	
	Licence/Tag Fee	Licence/Tag Fee	Trophy Fee	Licence/Tag Fee	Trophy Fee
Small Game	$ 5.00	$10.00	None	$25.00	None
Black Bear	$ 5.00	$10.00	$ 50.00	$25.00	$ 50.00
Grizzly Bear	$ 5.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polar Bear	$ 5.00	$10.00	$500.00	$25.00	$500.00
Barren-ground Caribou	*$10.00	$10.00	$100.00	$25.00	$100.00
Woodland Caribou	$ 5.00	$10.00	$100.00	$25.00	$100.00
Mountain Goat	$ 5.00	$10.00	$100.00	$25.00	$100.00
Moose	$ 5.00	$10.00	$100.00	$25.00	$100.00
Muskox	$ 5.00	$10.00	$500.00	$25.00	$500.00
Dall's Sheep	$ 5.00	$10.00	$100.00	$25.00	$100.00
Wolf	$ 5.00	$10.00	$ 50.00	$25.00	$ 50.00
Wolverine	$ 5.00	$10.00	$ 50.00	$25.00	$ 50.00

* If a resident wishes to hunt only one caribou and hunt it in Zone J/1 he may pay a reduced licence fee of $5.00. Eligible residents may purchase an additional tag for $40 (except in J/1).

THE PAPERWORK

"Sport hunter" is a term which is generally used to apply to any hunter not of native ancestry. Native people form a majority of the population in the N.W.T., and their hunting rights, which are based on traditional use, are different in many respects from those of sport hunters. The licencing system too is different: a General Hunting Licence, in the form of a plastic card, is issued to eligible native people. Eligibility is determined by blood lines.

RESIDENCY:

There are three classes of sport hunters in the N.W.T.: resident, non-resident, and non-resident alien.

A resident is a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who has been living in the N.W.T. for at least 2 years.

A non-resident is also a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant but one who lives outside the N.W.T. or has not resided in the N.W.T. for a full 2 years.

A non-resident alien is someone from outside of Canada.

AGE REQUIREMENT:

No licence to hunt game shall be issued to any person who has not attained the age of 16 years. However, if certain conditions are met, a licence to hunt small game may be issued to a person between 14 and 16 years of age.

YOUR LICENCE:

The authority to hunt small game consists of a hunting licence. The authority to hunt big game consists of a hunting licence and, in most cases, wildlife tags.

Wildlife tags are numbered metal strips issued for a particular species. They must be attached to the animal after the kill is made. Residents receive one tag per animal (except wolf and wolverine, for which no tags are issued). Non-residents and non-resident aliens receive an identically numbered pair for all species (except wolf and wolverine, for which only a single tag is issued).

Hunting licences and wildlife tags must be carried with you when hunting.

Licences and tags may be purchased from any Wildlife Office in the N.W.T. In Yellowknife and some of the larger settlements, licences and tags may also be purchased from vendors. However, big game licences and tags for non-residents and non-resident aliens, and tags for grizzly bear, polar bear, and muskox, may be purchased *only* at Wildlife Offices.

Not all tags need be bought at once. If, following an initial purchase, tags for other species are desired, they may be obtained at a later date. The serial numbers of subsequent tags must be entered on your licence. A second licence is not required and is, in fact, illegal.

When a hunter buys a grizzly bear tag, he also receives a questionnaire, which must be completed and returned, even if the hunter was unsuccessful.

Unsuccessful grizzly bear, polar bear and muskox hunters must turn in their tags to a Wildlife Officer. These tags are then destroyed; they cannot be used by other hunters.

A licence is not transferable and not valid until signed by the person to whom it has been issued.

EXPIRY DATE:

Licences are issued for 1 year starting 1 July and ending 30 June. However, the licence is valid for a species only during an open season for that species.

LOST LICENCE:

It's a good idea to record the serial number of your licence and tags. Report any loss to a Wildlife Officer, who will issue a replacement upon your signing an affidavit and paying a fee of $1.00 for each missing item.

FEES:

1. **Licence/Tag Fees:** for all classes of sport hunters — they must be paid before you go hunting.
2. **Trophy Fees:** for non-resident and non-resident aliens only — they must be paid after you have bagged your animal and before an export permit is issued.
3. **Export Permit:** for all classes of hunters — your permit to remove game from the N.W.T. Cost: $1.00

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

GUNS AND AMMUNITION:

When hunting big game in the N.W.T. you must use .23 or larger calibre ammunition except for barren-ground caribou north of the treeline, where .222, .22-250 and .223 calibre is permitted.

Ammunition containing non-expanding or steel-jacketed bullets, or tracer ammunition, may not be used for hunting.

When hunting small game, no person may use a shotgun which holds more than three shells in the magazine and firing chamber combined.

BOW HUNTING:

Bow hunting is permitted in the N.W.T. subject to the same regulations as hunting with a firearm but there are some stipulations about draw weight and arrow type. Draw weight must be at least 20 kg at 700 mm draw. Arrows must have a broad-head point width of at least 25 mm at its widest point or an unbarbed three bladed bodkin head and must not contain any explosive.

USE OF AIRCRAFT:

If you are flying in zones B/5, F/1, F/2, H/1, H/3 or J/1, you must wait 12 hours after landing before hunting caribou.

This is to prevent aircraft from giving hunters more than a sporting chance. It does not stop licenced Outfitters from making preparations for the hunt.

Helicopters cannot be used in zones B/5, F/1, F/2, H/1, H/3 or J/1 for any purpose connected with hunting other than emergencies.

Contravention of the regulations governing helicopter use in zones B/5, F/1, F/2, H/1, H/3 or J/1 carries a maximum fine of $2,000.00 and/or 15 months in jail.

WHAT IS A LEGAL ANIMAL:

You will need to know the following about Dall's sheep, polar bear, black bear and grizzly bear.

TROPHY SHEEP

¾ curl horn — Broomed ¾ curl horn

A legal Dall's sheep is a ram with at least one horn that is ¾ curl or larger. To check the curl, view the animal from the side and imagine a straight line from the base to the tip of the horn. If the line passes through the back corner of the eye or anywhere forward of that it's a legal ram.

If the horn is broomed, as they often are, imagine it as if it were whole and draw that same line. Again, if it passes through the back corner of the eye it's a ¾ curl ram.

A legal black, grizzly or polar bear is any bear that is not a cub or is not accompanied by a cub. That is, you may shoot any adult bear except a female with a cub.

A polar bear cub is defined as one measuring less than 1.5 m from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail. The hide measures less than 1.5 m from nose to tail when fresh and less than 1.8 m when stretched and dried.

A grizzly bear cub is defined as one measuring less than 1.4 m from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail. The hide measures less than 1.4 m from nose to tail when fresh and less than 1.6 m when stretched and dried.

A black bear cub is defined as one measuring less than 1.2 m from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail. The hide measures less than 1.2 m from nose to tail when fresh and less than 1.6 m when stretched and dried.

EVIDENCE OF SEX:

Where hunters are required to take males only, they must retain evidence of sex. For caribou and muskoxen, the testicles or scrotum. For moose, the head or testicles or scrotum. For Dall's sheep, the horns must remain attached to the head and the eye sockets must be intact.

WHERE TO ATTACH TAGS:

Remember tags are your authority to possess game. They must be attached as soon as you have finished field dressing your animal and remain so until it is consumed or processed (tanned or mounted). Tags cannot be reused.

For muskox and bear, all classes of hunters must attach the tag to the hide. For other big game, residents must attach the tag to the carcass and non-residents and non-resident aliens must attach one to the horns, antlers, head or cape and the other to the carcass.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS:

No one may chase, harass or molest wildlife without the intent of killing it.

Any person who wounds wildlife shall make every reasonable effort to retrieve it.

It is an offence to waste, destroy, abandon or allow to spoil: a) the meat of big game, other than bear, wolf or wolverine; and b) the raw pelt or hide of any fur-bearing animal, including bears.

No person shall hunt wildlife without due regard for the safety of other persons and property.

Excluding snowmobiles, no one shall hunt from, or discharge a firearm from or within a vehicle, or have in or on a vehicle a firearm with a live cartridge in the barrel, breech or firing compartment. Nor shall anyone discharge a firearm from, along or across a public road.

No person shall use or have in his possession while hunting, any recorded game calls, or any mechanically or electrically operated calling device of any description.

No person shall transport wildlife within the N.W.T. unless: a) it was killed under a licence that has not been invalid for more than 10 days; or b) he has been issued a Wildlife Transport Permit.

BAG LIMITS

BIG GAME

Black Bear:	
All Hunters	— 1, any adult bear not accompanied by a cub
Grizzly Bear:	
Residents only	— 1, any adult bear not accompanied by a cub; only 1 per lifetime per hunter
Polar Bear:	
All Hunters	— 1 or more, any adult bear not accompanied by a cub, in accordance with the number of tags held
Barren-ground Caribou:	
Resident	— 2, any age or sex (only one of which may be hunted in J/1); however, residents who have lived continuously in the N.W.T. for not less than 5 years will be allowed, 1 additional tag upon proof of eligibility and payment of $40 (except in J/1)
Non-resident	— 1, male
Non-resident Alien	— 1, male
Woodland Caribou:	
All Hunters	— 1, any age or sex
Mountain Goat:	
All Hunters	— 1, any age or sex
Moose:	
Resident	— 1, any age or sex
Non-resident	— 1, male
Non-resident Alien	— 1, male
Muskox:	
All Hunters	— 1 or more, males only, in accordance with the number of tags held
Dall's Sheep:	
All Hunters	— 1, male
Wolf:	
Resident	— any number, age or sex
Non-resident	— 1, any age or sex
Non-resident Alien	— 1, any age or sex
Wolverine:	
Resident	— any number, age or sex
Non-resident	— 1, any age or sex
Non-resident Alien	— 1, any age or sex

SMALL GAME

Hare: (all species)	
Resident	— any number
Non-resident	— 5 per day, possession limit 10
Non-resident Alien	— 5 per day, possession limit 10
Upland Game Birds: (grouse & ptarmigan)	
Resident	— 10 per day, possession limit 40
Non-resident	— 5 per day, possession limit 10
Non-resident Alien	— 5 per day, possession limit 10

WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES:

Permits are not required to enter a wildlife sanctuary, and firearms may be carried for protection. Hunting, however, is prohibited, and possession of wildlife is prima facie evidence of guilt. Bows or crossbows may not be taken into a wildlife sanctuary.

There are presently three wildlife sanctuaries in the N.W.T.: Bowman Bay, Twin Islands, and the Thelon.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:

There are two special management areas designated in the N.W.T. where certain hunting restrictions apply.

F1/A — A corridor 8 km each side of the Gordon Lake winter road from the south end of Gordon Lake to the south end of Lockhart Lake. The Minister may invoke special conditions prohibiting the use of cars, trucks, and aircraft to transport caribou along the corridor. The public will be advised if these conditions are invoked.

D1/A — There is also a corridor on each side of the Dempster Highway from the Yukon-Northwest Territories boundary to the municipality of Inuvik.

Please consult the nearest Wildlife Officer or Regional Office for more information concerning these two areas.

CERTIFICATION OF WILDLIFE:

Anyone picking up dead wildlife, or parts thereof, not killed under the authority of a licence, may be allowed to retain it with the permission of a Wildlife Officer. For certain wildlife a metal disc must be attached to indicate lawful possession. This currently includes grizzly bear, polar bear, muskox, bison, Dall's sheep, and birds of prey (including eggs).

All Dall's sheep, whether hunted or picked up, must have a numbered plug inserted in the horns. This is part of a North American sheep identification program, in which many states and provinces are participating.

This pamphlet is neither a legal document nor a complete dossier of the current hunting regulations. It is an abbreviated guide, published to assist the hunter to interpret the rules of hunting. Amendments sometimes occur after the printing of this pamphlet. Check with the nearest N.W.T. Wildlife Officer for specific details.

UP IN SMOKE?

One-third of all forest fires in the N.W.T. are caused by man. During the last 10 years, over 700 forest fires were caused by people who were careless with campfires.

Remember...Build your campfire on rock or bare earth...Never leave your campfire unattended... Make sure campfire ashes are cool to the touch before leaving camp.

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Northwest Territories Information

Summary
of
Sport Hunting Regulations

Effective July 1, 1983

Northwest Territories Renewable Resources
The Honourable Richard Nerysoo, Minister

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